REMARKS

In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

In the Office Action under reply, U.S. Published Application 2002/0191950 (Wang) was combined with U.S. Patent 6,760,536 (Amir) to reject claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 11, 14-17, 19-21, 24-26, 29-31, 35-37, 41-43, 55, 59-62, 64-65, 69-72, 74 and 75. U.S. Patent 7,013,477 (Nakamura) was added to this combination to reject claims 4, 13, 23, 28, 34, 40, 58 and 68. The Wang-Amir combination was further combined with U.S. Patent 6,434,746 (Nagashima) to reject claims 9, 18, 44, 45, 48-50, 53 and 54; and the Wang-Amir-Nagashima combination was additionally combined with Nakamura to reject claims 47 and 52. This is the very same rejection as in the previous Office Action of April 27, 2009. As before, no claims are allowed.

Of the rejected claims, claims 1, 10, 19, 20, 25, 30, 31, 37, 43, 44, 49, 54, 55, 65 and 75 are independent. To expedite the successful prosecution of the present application, these independent claims are amended to make explicit the relationship between the set frame rate data FR_s and the reference frame rate FR_r, to clarify that this data FR_s is included in the associated information, and to point out that the associated information includes recommended data. These claims also point out how the image data is reproduced at a user-selected reproduction speed and the constraints upon that reproduction speed. It is respectfully submitted these independent claims, together with those claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct over Wang, Amir, Nakamura and Nagashima, taken alone or in combination.

As a result of this amendment, claims 2, 11, 21, 26, 45 and 50 are redundant and canceled.

Dependent claims 64 and 74 are amended to be consistent with the claims from which they depend.

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Wang is directed to a technique that disables a "skipping function" when playing back recorded television programs, thereby preventing a user from "fast forwarding" or "skipping" through recorded commercials (see, for example, paragraphs [0008], [0022], [0025]-[0029] and [0072]-[0073] of Wang). Wang relies on a content classification signal to indicate the presence of a commercial. The Examiner continues to interpret Wang's content classification signal as being the same as Applicant's "associated information." There is no suggestion in Wang of permitting predetermined content to be played back at a fast speed, but limiting that fast playback speed to an upper limit that is less than what the user might desire. Nor does Wang suggest that his content classification signal prevents the limited fast playback speed from being overridden. Wang does not describe including set frame rate data or recommended data with his content classification signal. Nor does Wang suggest Applicant's relationship between set frame rate data and reference frame rate, as recited in, for example, Applicant's claim 1. Wang does not disclose "a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content" of main data, this recommended reproduction speed being within the predetermined range of reproduction speeds represented by information included in Wang's content classification signal. That is, Wang does not disclose,

> "said associated information selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range... and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed [within said predetermined range] at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data."

Nor does Wang describe

> "said user-selectable reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s."

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The skipping function of Wang differs from the frame skipping feature of Applicant's claims. In Wang, the commercials present in a broadcast television program are "skipped" by fast-forwarding through those commercials. In Applicant's claims, <u>individual frames</u> of image data are skipped, that is, individual frames are not played back, thereby reducing the number of frames that are reproduced; but resulting in a fast reproduction of the image data because the frames that are not skipped are played back at the normal frame rate, thereby displaying fast movement – e.g. 2X speed as shown in Fig. 12E or 20X speed as shown in Fig. 12G of Applicant's drawings. Wang does not suggest such frame skipping to provide a fast reproduction display. Wang does not permit fast forwarding through commercials, even if such a fast forwarding is within a predetermined range.

The Examiner correctly acknowledged that Wang does not teach set frame rate data included in his content classification signal. Rather, Amir was relied upon for an alleged teaching of this feature. But the patent to Amir does not suggest the skipping of individual frames, as disclosed and claimed in the instant application. In Amir, a "shot" formed of a number of frames has less frames skipped near the beginning of the shot, while more frames are skipped near the middle or end of the shot (column 2, lines 55-59). The purpose for this speed-up at the middle of the shot is described at, for example, column 4, lines 20-31 of Amir. Amir does not include, in any information analogous to Applicant's "associated information," data that corresponds to "set frame rate data (FR_s)." Nor does Amir include in such non-existent associated information,

> "said associated information selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range... and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed [within said predetermined range] at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data."

Amir's algorithm, described at column 5, lines 35-42, is not suggestive of permitting a user-selectable reproduction speed to be a fast speed "produced by skipping selected frames of said main data <u>as a function of FR_s</u>" or a "slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data <u>as a</u>

function of FR$_s$," where FR$_s$ = nFR$_r$, all as recited in, for example, Applicant's claim 1. While Amir

skips more frames in the middle of a shot than at the beginning, he does not suggest the relationship

FR$_s$ = nFR$_r$ or including data representing FR$_s$ in "associated information."

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art, after reading and

understanding Wang and Amir, would not be enabled by these references to provide the "associated

information" having the characteristics and functions described in Applicant's claim 1. Accordingly,

it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 as being obvious in view of the combination

of Wang and Amir be withdrawn.

Claims 10, 19, 44, 49, 54, 55, 65 and 75 are independent and include substantially the same

recitations as quoted above in connection with claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that

these claims are patentably distinct over the cumulative teachings of Wang and Amir for those

reasons discussed above. It is noted, claims 44 and 49 were rejected in view of the combination of

Wang, Amir and Nagashima. It appears, however, that Nagashima was relied upon for allegedly

describing editing of image data. However, those portions of Nagashima specifically relied upon by

the Examiner are directed to the selection of either I, P or B frames for transmission, depending upon

traffic information. There is no suggestion in Nagashima of the claimed recitation:

> associated information including set frame rate data (FR$_s$) representing a reproduction speed
> for said main data, FR$_s$=nFR$_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), said associated information
> selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main
> data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a
> fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated information further including
> recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction
> device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended
> reproduction speed being within said predetermined range, said user-selectable reproduction
> speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function
> of FR$_s$, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating
> selected frames of said main data as a function of FR$_s$, said maximum speed of said
> predetermined range being set for said predetermined content of said main data and not
> capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 44 and 49 should be withdrawn.

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Independent claims 20, 25, 30, 31, 37 and 43 are similar to claim 1, discussed above, but do not recite inclusion of "recommended data" with the associated information. Nevertheless, these claims are patentably distinct over the combination of Wang and Amir, even if supplemented by the secondary references to Nakamura and Nagashima, because the cumulative teachings of these references do not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art:

> determining whether or not indication information indicates limitation information for limiting reproduction speed of main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, said main data including image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r, said indication information including set frame rate data (FR_s) representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s = nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), said user-selectable reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FRs, said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for a predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed

as called for by these claims. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 20, 25, 30, 31, 37 and 43 as being obvious should be withdrawn.

All of the remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims discussed above. Since these dependent claims include all of the limitations recited by the claim from which the respective dependent claim depends, it follows that Applicant's dependent claims are patentably distinct over the cited prior art for those reasons discussed above.
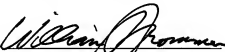
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is respectfully solicited.

Statements appearing above in respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney and, in the event the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

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Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our

Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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